

sixteen specimens, and included four more examples of the new snake. There were ten specimens of *Silybura nigra*, and one each of *Xylophis perroteti* and *Platyplectrurus madurensis*.

The four *Brachyophidium rhodogaster* were all adults. ♂ 185 mm. ( $7\frac{3}{8}$  inches). Ventrals 143. Subcaudals 10 right, 11 left. ♀ 178 mm. ( $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches). Ventrals 145. Subcaudals 8. ♀ 178 mm. ( $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches). Ventrals 147. Subcaudals 8. ♀ 200 mm. (8 inches). Ventrals 149. Subcaudals 7 right, 8 left. The lepidosis in other respects conforms to that of the type. The last specimen captured as recently as the 22nd of November this year, has the belly suffused with the most intense and beautiful tone of cerise. In the others this hue has faded in spirit to a yellowish colour. The light spot behind the parietals in the type is not noticeable in any of these four specimens.

The largest ♀ captured in November 1920 is gravid, and contained three large eggs which would have been deposited probably that month or December.

I dissected out the skull of this specimen and find the maxillary teeth kumatodont, and 9 in number. The palatine and perygoids are edentulous. The mandibular are kumatodont and number 10.

It is remarkable that a species which is so common that a small collection furnishes four examples, should have escaped the notice of Colonel Beddome. That authority exploited the South Indian Hills, including the Palni Hills to such purpose in the seventies and eighties of the last century, that he has hardly left a snake for any later enthusiast to discover.

F. WALL, C.M.Z.S.,

Colonel, I.M.S.

BANGALORE,

1st December 1921.

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#### No. XXIII.—LEECH ATTACKING A SNAKE.

This morning I found a species of *Dryophis* (*dispar* I think) crossing a road separating two fields of coffee. On picking it up, I noticed a small leech firmly attached to and lying along its right superlabials. Snakes and Leeches are both very common here, but I have never before seen a leech using a snake as a medium for quenching its everlasting thirst for blood. The incident was, perhaps, the more remarkable from the fact that the snake was of so essentially an aboreal species. Several species of *Dryophis* are extremely common on the coffee trees as are various species of *Lachesis*, but neither genus is often found on the ground.

A. P. KINLOCH, F.Z.S.

NELLIAMPATHY HILLS,

8th September 1921.

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#### No. XXIV.—FOOD OF THE SNAIL (*INDRELLA AMPULA*).

The large pink snail of the Western Ghats (*Indrella ampula*) is very common on these hills and it may be of interest to record its feeding habits.

In nearly all cases I have found this snail feeding on Jack-fruit (*Artocarpus integrifolia*) which had been putrified to a pulp, but on two or three occasions I found it greedily devouring a fungus like growth which occurs frequently on rotten logs but the name of which I am ignorant of.

A. P. KINLOCH, F.Z.S.

NELLIAMPATHY HILLS,

8th September 1921.

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No. XXV.—BUTTERFLY FEEDING ON EXCRETA.

With reference to a recent note in the Journal of a butterfly drinking its own excreta, I send you herewith for identification a small butterfly which is at present common in my verandah at Dharmsala (4,000 feet). This morning I watched one of them which had settled on the floor of the verandah; it kept on bending its abdomen forward and depositing a drop of moisture which it then leaning backwards drank up with its proboscis. This was repeated several times.

HUGH WHISTLER, F.Z.S., C.F.A.O.U.

DHARMSALA, PUNJAB,

12th August 1921.

[The Butterfly sent to the Society by Mr. Whistler has been identified as *Hasora alexis* Fab. (Eds.)]

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No. XXVI.—THE BLACK ROCK SCORPION (*PALAMNÆUS SWAMMERDAMI*).

On 22nd July 1921, about 7 a.m., my pankah boy informed me that he had seen an animal go into some water standing in a brick drain into which my bath emptied. He told me that it was a scorpion and I did not believe him, never having heard of a scorpion voluntarily entering water. However, he stuck to it and I went to see. After taking out some broken brick the tail of a scorpion appeared and he was duly captured unharmed. I decided to see if he could really stand water for any time and put him into an enamelled jug three parts full. He, or rather she, displayed no anxiety and assumed the usual sparring attitude but presently relaxed and stayed quiet. Presently I scraped my foot slightly on the concrete floor and she immediately sprang to the defensive attitude. No part of me was touching the table or jug and the sound must have reached her through table and water. She responded to about 3 scrapes and then gave it up.

After sitting quiet for about a quarter of an hour from the time of immersion she set to work quietly to explore her prison and to try and get out. She tried walking up the sides but they were too steep and smooth. Then with tail braced across the jug she worked up the opposite side with front legs and chelæ until the jug by reason of its bulge became too wide for her to span. In doing this, when at greatest stretch, she bore against the side of the jug with the point of her sting so as to get the advantage of the length of vesicle. After several attempts this was given up and she tried bracing herself round the inside curve of the jug and working up sideways. At this she succeeded so well as to get the tarsus joints of top side out of water, but the overhang of the side defeated her and she slipped back. She tried this 3 times and then resigned herself to fate and sat quietly at the bottom. I had to go to office